Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Our rights and liberties are rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, those being the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights, and those documents set forth the principles upon which our government is based; and,

Whereas, We as Americans enjoy our freedom and the rule of law through the documents that our founding fathers created; and,

Whereas, It is altogether appropriate that the 16th Day of March, the birthday of the distinguished founding father, James Madison, the fourth President of the United States, who was the major author of the Virginia Plan-the model and basis for the United States Constitution, would be designated as a reminder of Liberty Day, a celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution and its Bill of Rights, where our unalienable rights and liberties are enumerated; and,

Whereas, The core principles embodied in the foundational documents that define the United States system of government form a common bond to unite the people of the United States; and,

Whereas, Informed and participative citizens exhibit that responsibility and civic competence which will ensure the preservation of our form of constitutional self-government; and,

Whereas, The civic culture that defines the United States can be sustained as long as each generation develops a deep understanding and commitment to the principles of our founding documents; and,

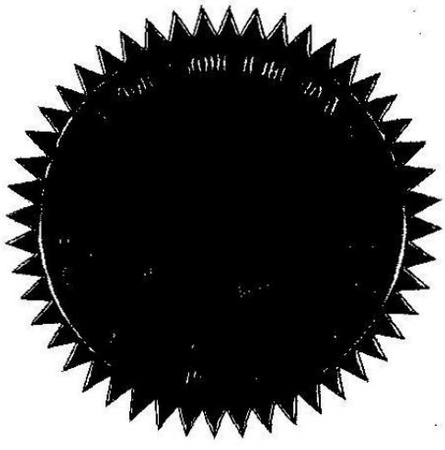
Whereas, Constitutional self-government places a tremendous degree of responsibility and trust upon the citizens who are to govern themselves; and,

Whereas, Liberty Day provides an opportunity for Centennial citizens to realize the achievements of our founding fathers and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities they secured for themselves and for posterity:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 16, 2003, as

LIBERTY DAY

in South Dakota, and encourage all citizens of South Dakota to recognize the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution and its Bill of Rights and encourage the citizens of South Dakota to take an active role in this celebration.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State